Chapter
17

JUN MOCHIZUKI

THE CASE STUDY OF VANITAS

FROM WHAT I HEAR, HE MADE THE CROSSING TO FRANCE AND WAS WELCOMED BY THE CHURCH AFTER THE ACADEMY EXPELLED HIM DUE TO A CERTAIN SCANDAL.

ORIGINALLY, DOCTOR MOREAU WAS A RENOWNED PHYSIOLOGIST.

MOREAU WAS RESEARCHING VAMPIRES UNDER THE CHASSEURS' PROTECTION.

YOUR NATURES, YOUR WEAKNESSES... THERE'S STILL SO MUCH WE DON'T KNOW.

HOWEVER, IN THE MIDST OF THAT...

...HE BEGAN ATTEMPTING A HORRIBLE EXPERIMENT.

A SCAN-DAL?

I'VE NEVER MET HIM PERSONALLY, SO ALL I KNOW ARE RUMORS, BUT...

...APPARENTLY A DOG THAT HAD BEEN SKINNED AND HAD BODY PARTS AMPUTATED ESCAPED FROM HIS LABORATORY.

HUH ...!?

DOCTOR MOREAU...

...TRIED TO CREATE VAMPIRES, BY HIS OWN HAND.

JUN MOCHIZUKI

THE CASE STUDY OF VANITAS

Mémoire 17 Cicatrice

-NO. 69-

VANITAS!

...
VANITAS.

HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP SULKING LIKE THAT?

IT'S SAFER TO HAVE LAURENT AND THE OTHERS WITH US, YOU KNOW.

KATSU (TAK)

I'M NOT SULKING.

I WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT MAN!

HA HA HA HA!

...

DO YOU REALLY UNDERSTAND, NOÉ?

YOU TWO REALLY DO GET ALONG WELL, DON'T YOU!

NO, WE DON'T.

WE DO NOT!

FUUU (HISSS)

HUH?

THEY MAY JUST BE PRETENDING TO COOPERATE. THEY MAY BE WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT TO CAPTURE US.

KATSU

THAT'S OUR LINE, KIN OF THE BLUE MOON.

KATSU

WELL, YES, BUT...

THIS LOT WAS TRYING TO KILL YOU A MINUTE AGO.

KATSU

KATSU

YOU'RE GOING AROUND WITH A VAMPIRE. WE CAN'T TRUST WHAT YOU SAY.

NOÉ! NOÉ!

YES?

JUST TRY DOING ANYTHING FUNNY...I'LL TAKE MY BOW AND—!

HEH-HEH! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE THIS CLOSE TO A VAMPIRE, TALKING TO HIM.

YOU SURE ARE TALL, AREN'T YOU!

DO BE MY FRIEND!! THERE'S SO MUCH MORE I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOU!

キラ KIRAAAN (SPARKLE) ーーン!!

CAPTAIN, PLEASE, WOULD YOU BE QUIET!?

...!! SURE!

NOÉ ARCHIVISTE (14)

DOESN'T HAVE MANY FRIENDS.

AND YOU, VAMPIRE! DON'T YOU TAKE HIM UP ON IT!!

ガシ GASHI (GRAB)

I'M TELLING YOU, GEORGES, THEY'RE MAKING IT ALL UP.

NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THEY SAY THE LABORATORY OF DOCTOR MOREAU HIMSELF IS AT THE END OF IT.

NOW, NOW, MARIA. WE'LL SEE WHEN WE GET THERE.

WHO'D HAVE BELIEVED THERE WAS STILL A HIDDEN PASSAGE HERE, IN THE HEART OF OUR STRONGHOLD!

ST-

STILL, THAT WAS A SHOCK!

WE'RE HERE.

VANITAS —

...

GOKU (GULP)

...GH (CREEEAK)

THIS IS IT.

PAN

PAN

PAN (BANG)

AND WELCOME BACK!!!

WELCOME!!

...NO. 69!!!

MY...

! THIS MAN'S ...

VANITAS ...

I'M DOCTOR MORGAAAU !!

DO YOU REMEMBER ME!? YOU DO. DON'T YOU!?

DOCTOR MOREAU!

!?

NN? WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE BEHIND YOU?

THEY'RE ARMED... ARE THEY YOUR FRIENDS?

WAH CHAN!

IT'S AN HONOR TO SEE YOU AGAIN, SIR!

I THOUGHT THIS WAS WHERE YOU'D BE, IF YOU WERE IN PARIS!

YES, YES, THAT'S RIGHT. I'M IMPRESSED YOU REMEMBERED THE WAY BACK HERE.

GOOD BOY! VERY GOOD!

HUH!?

THEY'RE YOUR SUPPORTERS, DOCTOR!

YES.

OH.

OHHH.

OH.

OH!

AS YOU CAN SEE, THEY'RE CHASSEURS.

I EXPECT THEY'LL BE USEFUL TO YOU, BOTH AS ASSISTANTS AND AS GUARDS.

ON MY WAY HERE, I TOLD THEM ABOUT THE NOBILITY OF YOUR EXPERIMENTS.

THEY SYMPATHIZED WITH YOUR IDEAS AND WERE ADAMANT THAT THEY WANTED TO HELP, SO THEY ACCOMPANIED ME.

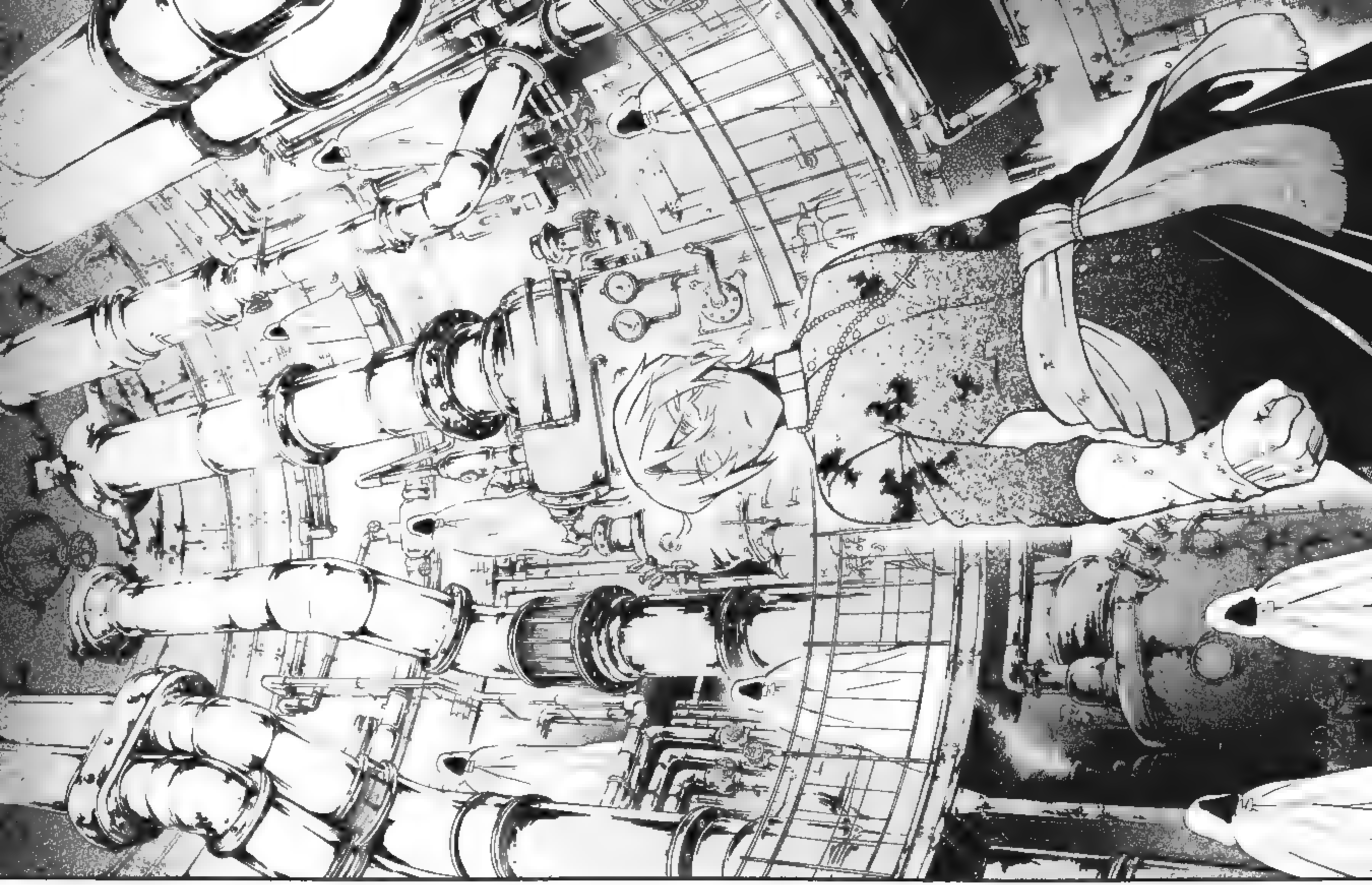
PAN (CLAP)

PAN

HAH

HOW MAAAAAR...

...VELOUUUUUS!



IF YOU'D BEEN BAD PEOPLE WHO'D COME TO CAPTURE ME, I WOULD HAVE HAD TO KILL YOU.

OHH, THAT'S WONDERFUL !!

PREPARE TO ENTERTAIN OUR GUESTS!!

PAN

PAN (CLAP)

COME, COME, EVERYONE! HURRY UP!

KACHA (CLATTER)

KACHA

KACHA

KACHA

KACHA

KACHA (CLICK)

DUM-DUM!

DUM

DUM

IF WE FLATTER THIS MAN AND GET HIM GOING, HE'LL BLAB ABOUT THINGS WE HAVEN'T EVEN ASKED.

SHH.

VANITAS... THIS IS...

...OR I'LL KILL HIM MYSELF.

WHAT HAS HE DONE WITH THE CAPTURED VAMPIRES? DID HE PERPETRATE THIS INCIDENT ALONE?

ONCE THAT'S DONE, WE'LL EITHER GIVE HIM TO THE CHASSEURS ...

WE'LL SQUEEZE ALL THE INFORMATION WE CAN OUT OF HIM.

THEIR EYES ARE VACANT, AND I CAN'T SENSE ANY LIFE FROM THEM...

ARE THESE THE REINFORCED HUMANS VANITAS MENTIONED?

THANK... YOU.

KACHA

KACHA

NO. 69 HAS PROBABLY TOLD YOU ALREADY. BUT I RESEARCH VAMPIRES HERE!

IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU!

ALL RIGHT. LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF!

MY NAME IS MOREAU!

AHEM

AH, YES. WHAT AN ADMIRABLE ATTITUDE!

HMM...?

WELL, THAT'S IMPORTANT, YOU KNOW! I THINK HE WANTS TO HEAR IT AGAIN, DIRECTLY FROM YOU, DOCTOR!

OVER HERE!!

HERE!

HERE!

DOCTOR, DOCTOR!!

WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO CREATE VAMPIRES?

YOU SEE.

SOMEDAY, I WANT TO BECOME A VAMPIRE!!

WHEN THE CHURCH CONTACTED ME...

...AT FIRST, I MERELY COOPERATED WITH THEIR VAMPIRIC RESEARCH OUT OF INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY.

HOWEVER, THE MORE I LEARNED ABOUT VAMPIRES, THE MORE CONVINCED I BECAME—

VAMPIRES ARE FAR SUPERIOR TO US HUMANS...

A NEW MANKIND, CREATED AT THE APEX OF EVOLUTION!!

DAN (STOMP)

AAAAAAA-AAAAAAH! LUCKY, LUCKY, IT'S NOT FAAAIR!!

DAN

DAN

DAN

DAN

I WANT TO HURRY AND CROSS OVER TO THAT SIDE TOO!!!!

DAN

"BABEL" WAS A RITUAL THAT WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER FOR EVOLUTION TO PROGRESS!

CREATION AND DESTRUCTION GO HAND IN HAND.

IN OTHER WORDS, THAT DISASTER ...

GATSU (THUMP)

DAMN !!!!IT !!!

DAMN IT!

JUST HOW MUCH TIME AND LABOR DO YOU THINK I WASTED BECAUSE OF YOUR INCOMPETENCE !?

DAN

DAN

DAMN IT!

THOSE FOOLS IN THE CHURCH TREATED ME AS A LUNATIC AND EXILED ME!

DAN

DAMN IT!

DAN

DAN

GURUN (TWIRL)

I SWEAR! THAT GAVE ME SO MUCH GRIEF!!

HA!

AFTER THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON ATTACKED MY LABORATORY AND STOLE YOU CHILDREN FROM ME...

THAT DAY...

OOOOOH, IT WAS JUST AWFUL!!

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY ABOUT THAT.

DEAR, DEAR.

BAN (BAM)

BAN

THANKS TO THAT BROUHAHA, THE CHURCH FOUND OUT ABOUT MY SECRET RESEARCH, AND I WAS VERY NEARLY KILLED!!

ALL MY PRIOR "PROJECTS" WERE DESTROYED ALONG WITH THE LAB!

BAN

YOU... CHIL-DREN?

YOU WERE SUCH AN EXCELLENT SUBJECT, NO. 69!!

GABA (GLOMP)

I DIDN'T MEAN IT! I'M SORRY! I'M NOT THE LEAST BIT ANGRY!

EVEN WHEN WE CUT YOU UP, EVEN WHEN YOU NEARLY DIED, YOU NEVER CRIED OR COMPLAINED!

YOU GLADLY COOPERATED WITH ANY EXPERIMENT.

WHEN I LOST YOU, I WAS SO SAD I COULDN'T STOP CRYING, AND I CAME THIS CLOSE TO DYING OF DEHYDRATION!

SURI

SURI (RUB)

I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME BACK!

YOU CAME TO HELP ME WITH MY RESEARCH AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU!?

BUT, DOCTOR, THIS IS THE HOME OF THE CHASSEURS WHO DROVE YOU OUT.

ISN'T IT INCONVENIENT TO BE HERE, ALL BY YOURSELF?

HEH-HEH-HEH! DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT THAT.

OF COURSE, DOCTOR.

THE MOMENT I HEARD THAT VAMPIRES WERE DISAPPEARING IN PARIS...

...I KNEW YOU MUST STILL BE HERE, FIGHTING BRAVELY IN THE SERVICE OF YOUR MISSION.

AFTER ALL, I HAVE "THAT EXALTED PERSONAGE" ON MY SIDE NOW!

I GET TO SPEND MY DAYS EXPERIMENTING AS MUCH AS I LIKE! I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER!

IT'S THANKS TO THAT COMRADE THAT I WAS ABLE TO RETURN TO MY OLD FAMILIAR LABORATORY.

THAT'S RIGHT! A SPLENDID COMRADE WHO UNDERSTANDS AND SUPPORTS MY RESEARCH!

PATA /P

"THAT PERSON" ...?

PATA (PATTERO /1°

...!

GOGO (RUMMAGE)

GOGO

BZZZZZZT!! THAT'S ONE THING I MUSTN'T TELL ANYONE. NOT EVEN YOU

AND WHO...

...MIGHT THAT PERSON BE?

AH!

LOOK AT THIS!!

NEVER MIND THAT. LOOK!

WHEN VAMPIRES DIE, THEY BEGIN TO TURN TO DUST, STARTING WITH THE HEART.

BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, I CUT AWAY THE PARTS I NEED FOR MY EXPERIMENTS, LIKE THIS.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

THEY'RE VAMPIRE EYES, FRESHLY HARVESTED!

I RUINED ALMOST ALL OF THEM!

HA-HA-HA! I GOT PRETTY CARRIED AWAY, I'M AFRAID.

...HOW ARE THE VAMPIRES YOU BROUGHT DOWN HERE?

NNNNN-NNNNNN!?

...NN?

AH, YES, YES THEY HAVE!

THEY USED TO BE DEEP BLUE. BUT NOW THEY'RE BRIGHT. LIKE A COPPER SULFATE SOLUTION.

WHAT'S THIS!? NO. 69, I JUST NOTICED!

HAVE YOUR EYES CHANGED COLOR!?

HAHA

AAAAAH! HOW INTRIGUING! INTRIGUING! INTRIGUING!!

AAAA

NO. 69?

IS THAT SOMEHOW RELATED TO THE POWER OF THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON!?

HAAAA

NO. 69!! I MEANT TO ASK YOU ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED LATER. BUT...

BEFORE THAT. JUST ONE!!

COULD I GOUGE OUT JUST ONE OF YOUR EYES AND ANALYZE IT!!!?

...HEY. QUIT. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M SORRY. I CAN'T.

STOP IT.

QUIT REFERRING TO PEOPLE ...

...AS NUMBERS !!!

GU (RGH)

GU

DOCTOR MOREAU, THERE'S A LOT I'D LIKE TO SAY TO YOU, BUT...

GU

GU

THAT NO. 69 BUSINESS.

NO. 69 THIS, NO. 69 THAT...

GIRI (GRIT)

...

RED EYES ...

DAN (WHIP)

A VAMPIRE !!?

!!

BA (FWIP)

ZA

ZA

ZA
(SKASH)

IF YOU HADN'T MADE A MOVE, I'D BE KILLING THAT MAN MYSELF RIGHT NOW!

THANK YOU, NOÉ.

NOÉ, HOLD HIM DOWN! WE'LL GET THAT INFORMATION OUT OF HIM EVEN IF WE HAVE TO TORTURE HIM!

HUH?

RIGHT!

WHAT !?

AAAH. DAMMIT !

...

HAA.

HAA.

NO. 69! NO. 69! WHO IS THIS VAMPIRE!? WHAT IS HE!? CAN I DISSECT HIM!?

DOCTOR MOREAU! TELL US THE IDENTITY OF THAT "EXALTED PERSONAGE" YOU MENTIONED!

EEEEEK! EEEEEK! EEEEEK!!

YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT!? NO! STOP!

GIRI (GRIT)

GIRI

GI (GRIT)

VANITAS, WAIT!

OW- OW-OW- OW-OW !!?

BYU (WHIZZ)

TA (TMP)

TA

TA

GASHI (GRAB)

WAAAGH !?

!?

KAHA (GHAK)

WHA ...

TAN (TMP)

YOU'RE ...!!

WHAT'S... GOING ON?

WHAT!? NO!!

I'M DESTROYING THIS LAB.

...

THAT'S IT, DOCTOR.

IF IT ISN'T MONSIEUR SPIDER! YOU SAVED ME! THANKS!!

THEY'RE ALL CONNECTED!?

...AND DOCTOR MOREAU ...

...THE MASKED MAN...

...

NAENIA...

CHARLATAN AND...

BA (LEAP)

GIRI GIRID

WAIT !!

WHAT'S GOING ON!!?

GAN (WHUD)

NII (GRIIN)

OOPS... I GUESS IT WOKE UP.

GAN

GAN

GAN

GAN

GAN

GAN

AAAAALL THE OTHER VAMPIRES GOT EATEN BY IT.

THERE'S A VERY LIVELY CURSE-BEARER IN THERE.

THAT'S PER-FECT.

IF WE DON'T SPRAY IT WITH MEDICINE AND PUT IT BACK TO SLEEP QUICKLY, THAT DOOR WON'T LAST LONG.

UU OUCHIE

DID ITS SYMPTOMS MANIFEST ALREADY!?

IS IT THE CURSE-BEARER DANTE AND THE OTHERS WERE CHASING !?

OUT OF THE WAY! I'LL BREAK THAT THING.

AN ELEVA-TOR!

GARA (RATTLE)

GARA

GAN

IT'LL BUY ME ENOUGH TIME TO GET YOU OUT.

OH.

COME TO THINK OF IT, NO. 69.

BA (FWIP)

WHAT'S NO. 71 UP TO THESE DAYS?

DIDN'T HE COME HERE WITH YOU??

BIG BROTHER...

YOU KNOW WHO I MEAN. HE WAS REALLY ATTACHED TO YOU...

...AND THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON TOOK YOU AWAY TOGETHER. MY NO. 71!

VANITAS!

!?

GO (THUD)

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT !?

WHAT HAP-PENED ?

GIVE HIM BACK.

GIVE HIM BACK!

GIVE HIM BACK!

GIVE HIM BACK!

GIVE HIM BACK.

GIVE HIM BACK.

GIVE BACK MY "FATHER"

HEY...

GUI (YANK)

HUH ...?

...KIND OF A FACE IS THAT?

WHAT...

GO (BOOM)

WHAT...IS *THAT...?*

ZZT

ZZT

ZZT

!?

YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT... IS A VAMPIRE !?
TO BE CONTINUED...

The Case Study of Vanitas
Chapter 17

Jun Mochizuki

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